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(54) **INTERFACE SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING HANDS-FREE OPERATION OF A RADIOTELEPHONE
AND COMMUNICATION TO ACCESSORIES IN A MOBILE OFFICE ENVIRONMENT**

**SCHNITTSTELLENSYSTEM FÜR DEN FREISPRECHBETRIEB EINES FUNKTELEFONS UND
ZUR ÜBERTRAGUNG AN ZUBEHÖR IN EINER MOBILBÜRO-UMGEBUNG**

**SYSTEME D'INTERFACE PERMETTANT LE FONCTIONNEMENT MAINS LIBRES D'UN
RADIOTELEPHONE ET LA TRANSMISSION A DES ACCESSOIRES DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT
DE BUREAU MOBILE**

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field of the invention

[0001] The present invention pertains in general to cellular telephones and devices which use cellular telephones for mobile communication, and more particularly, to the connection of a portable computer via a modem to a cellular telephone.

Description of Related Art

[0002] The growing use of cellular telephones and accessory devices such as speakerphones, portable computers, and portable facsimile machines is allowing many people to perform their jobs while away from their home and office. In particular, the use of cellular data modems in conjunction with laptop computers allows people to receive and send facsimiles and access local area networks while in a mobile office environment.

[0003] A shortcoming of sending and receiving facsimiles via a cellular telephone is that the modem must be repeatedly connected and disconnected, to and from, the cellular telephone when the user wishes to send or receive a facsimile or place or receive a voice telephone call, respectively. Furthermore, in situations where a user does not know when an incoming facsimile will be transmitted, the user must keep the modem connected to the cellular telephone. Maintaining this connection disables voice calls and prevents the cellular telephone user from using the cellular telephone to place or receive voice calls. Repeated connecting and disconnecting of the modem is especially bothersome for users while driving an automobile when the user's hands are not readily available. Besides being bothersome, this distraction is also dangerous to the user while driving an automobile.

[0004] There currently is no acceptable method by which a user of a cellular telephone can place and receive voice calls without physically disconnecting the modem from the cellular telephone. Generally, a cellular telephone user who wishes to avoid connecting and disconnecting the modem when making voice calls is forced to use two separate telephones with different telephone numbers.

[0005] Although U.S. Patent 4,972,457 by O'Sullivan describes a system and method for a portable hybrid communication system, the system and method is essentially a switch for connecting various inputs/outputs, such as a land line telephone and a cellular telephone, to a laptop computer and its various accessories, such as a modem, microphone and speaker. Furthermore, the system and method require the use of the laptop computer for such things as providing power.

[0006] There is a need, therefore, for an interface system capable of connecting a plurality of accessories, in-

cluding at least a modem, to a radiotelephone and coordinating access by these devices to the audio channel of the radiotelephone without manual intervention by the cellular telephone user. It would also be advantageous for such an interface system to allow the user of the cellular telephone to prioritize operation of the various accessories connected to the cellular telephone.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] An embodiment of the present invention comprises an interface system for connecting various accessory devices to a radiotelephone. The bidirectional audio channel of each accessory is connected to a switch within the interface system. Each accessory is also connected to a controller within the interface device by an individual request line for each accessory. When an accessory device requires access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone, the accessory sends a request to the controller of the interface device via the request line. If more than one device makes a request for access to the radiotelephone at the same time, the controller arbitrates between the competing devices after the controller determines which accessory will be granted access, the controller instructs the switch to connect the selected accessory to the radiotelephone.

[0008] In a further embodiment, the interface system also allows the user of the interface to input operational settings. These settings are used to select a hierarchy scheme for the various accessories and control operations of the interface system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] For a more complete understanding of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIGURES 1A and 1B illustrate a physical rendering of two embodiments of the present invention, FIGURE 1A having a centrally located interface system and FIGURE 1B having a centrally located portion of the interface system and a remotely located portion external to the centrally located interface system;

FIGURE 2 illustrates a functional block diagram for an interface system of the present invention;

FIGURE 3 illustrates a logic table depicting the control function for a preferred embodiment of an interface system;

FIGURE 4 illustrates a schematic of discrete logic used to implement the control function of FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 5 illustrates an embodiment of the control switch function depicted in FIGURE 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Referring now to Fig. 1A and Fig. 1B, there is illustrated a physical rendering of two embodiments of the present invention. Fig. 1A illustrates a first embodiment of the present invention comprising a centrally located interface system 100 having a radiotelephone 110 connected to the interface system via a communication link 120. Connection to the communication link 120 is effectuated using a connector 140. A docking station 130 is also provided for holding the radiotelephone. While Figs. 1A and 1B show the radiotelephone connected to the communication link 120 via connector 140, this connector can be incorporated into the docking station 130.

[0011] A first accessory is a speakerphone 170 having a microphone 150 and a speaker 160 connected to the interface system 100 via a communication link 145. A second accessory is handset 180 connected to the interface system 100 via a communication link 175. When the interface system 100 is placed in an automobile, the handset 180 can be located anywhere within the automobile and used by any occupant including the driver. While the present invention still allows a user to directly use the cellular telephone 110, it is likely that the cellular telephone 110 will be placed in the docking station 130 in order to effectuate other connections such as to a higher powered transmitter and a remotely located antenna. Therefore, handset 180 allows easy access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110.

[0012] Also connected to the interface system 100 is a modem 190 connected via communication link 185. The modem 190 is further connected to a portable or laptop computer 200 in a conventional manner. For example, under current technology this connection may be made through the use of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) card. Although the embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1A only depicts three accessories connected to the interface device 100, the present invention accommodates any number of accessories for connection to an interface device 100 for providing access to the audio channel of a radiotelephone 110. Communication links 120, 145, 175, and 185 which connect the interface device 100 to radiotelephone 110, speakerphone 170, handset 180, and modem 190 respectively, all of Fig. 1A, are depicted as being a physical connection. This connection can be effectuated using an electrical cable for transmitting electrical signals or a fibre optic cable for communicating fibre optic signals. These connections can also be effectuated via wireless communications using the electromagnetic spectrum.

[0013] Fig. 1B depicts a second embodiment of the present invention wherein, the interface system 100 of Fig. 1A comprises a centrally located portion of the interface system 250 and a remotely located portion of the interface system 260 which is external to the centrally located interface portion 250. Together the centrally lo-

cated portion 250 and the remotely located portion 260 constitute the interface system 100 of Fig. 1A. The externally located portion 260 connects to the centrally located portion 250 via a communication link 270. Again, this communication link 270 can be an electrical cable for transmitting electrical signals, a fibre optic cable for transmitting fibre optic signals, or a wireless link using the electromagnetic spectrum. Although the external portion of the interface system 260 is remotely located from the centrally located portion of the interface system 250, the external portion 260 in one embodiment is under the control of the centrally located portion 250 and in another embodiment, is controlled by the cellular telephone user.

[0014] The external portion of the interface system 260 is remotely located from the centrally located portion 250 in order to simplify connection of remote accessory devices to the centrally located portion of the interface system 250. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1B, the handset 180 is connected to the external portion of the interface system 250 via communication link 280 and the modem 190 is connected to the external portion of the interface system 250 via communication link 290. Again, communication links 280 and 290 can be effectuated using any of the media previously described.

[0015] Referring now to Fig. 2, there is illustrated a functional block diagram for an interface system of the present invention. The interface system 100 is comprised of a controller 300 and control switch 310. The controller 300 allows the user of the interface system 100 to input operational settings through a user operation setting function 320. Any conventional manner may be used to enter the settings and includes, but is not limited to, such methods as physically activating switches on a face plate of the interface device 100 or through voice commands using the radiotelephone handset 180 or speakerphone 170. Another method for inputting these user selected settings is through the use of the radiotelephone 110 or handset 180 keypad. The user selected settings can be used to prioritize operation of the various accessories and control functioning of the interface device 100.

[0016] The control switch 310 of the interface system 100 connects audio channels of the accessory devices to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110 under the direction of the controller 300 based on user selected operational settings and requests for access by the accessories. The audio channel of handset 180, modem 190, speakerphone 170, and accessory "n" 340 connect to the control switch 310 via bidirectional communication links 180A, 190A, 170A, and 340A respectively. Under the control of controller 300, the control switch 310 connects the audio channel of the selected accessory to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110 via bidirectional communication link 330.

[0017] Requests to the controller from the handset 180, modem 190, speakerphone 170, and accessory "n" 340 are transmitted via request links 180B, 190B, 170B,

and 340B respectively. As with all communication links of the present invention, all request links can be effectuated using electrical cables for transmitting electrical signals, fibre optic cable for transmitting fibre optic signals, and the electromagnetic spectrum for effectuating wireless communications. Requests for access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110 communicated from the accessories over request links 180B, 190B, 170B and 340B enter the controller 300 via inputs C1, C2, C3 and Cn, respectively. Using these requests and user selected operational settings, the controller 300 arbitrates between requests for access from the various accessories and controls operation of the control switch 310 via controller outputs C01, C02, C03, and C0n. Based on the controller output signals, the control switch 310 selectively connects one of the accessories to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110.

[0018] Requests by the accessories for access to the radiotelephone 110 can be accomplished in any number of ways. While complicated systems using interrupt or polling schemes can be employed, the preferred embodiment of the present invention simply transmits a logical "0" or "1" state on the request link of the associated accessory device to the controller 300. Transmitted requests by the accessories are received by the controller 300 via control input lines C1-C3. Generating the logical, "0" and "1" state for requesting access to the radiotelephone 110 can be easily accomplished. For example, handsets of most phones come equipped with a latching switch which activates the telephone when the handset is lifted off the cradle. This latching switch can be connected to the request link 180B such that when the handset is picked up the appropriate state is transmitted to the controller input C1. Similarly, the speakerphone 170 can activate the request link 170B either by the user activating a switch on the speakerphone 170 or through a voice command using speech recognition. In the case of the modem 190, the request link 190B can be activated using a request signal already available on PCMCIA modems.

[0019] The various accessories can be informed when they have been granted access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110. Separate grant lines can be used to communicate an access grant from the controller 300 to the various accessories devices or as in the case of PCMCIA modems the same request link can be used to provide notification of an access grant. Although cellular telephones do not provide a dial tone, another method to provide notification of an access grant is to provide a simulated dial tone. In the case of a handset 180 or a speakerphone 170, the cellular telephone user is made aware of an access grant by hearing the simulated dial tone. Although PCMCIA modems do not currently detect dial tones, other modems can detect the dial tones to determine that access to the radiotelephone 110 audio channel has been granted.

[0020] The bidirectional audio channel communication link for each of the accessory devices together with

the access request link of each accessory device depicted in Fig. 2 form the communication links of Figs. 1A and 1B. For example, the bidirectional communications link 180A of handset of 180 and the request link 180B together form the communication link 175 of Fig. 1A and 280 of Fig. 1B. Similarly, bidirectional communication link 190A and request link 190B of modem 190 form the communication link 185 of Fig. 1A and 290 of Fig. 1B. Likewise, bidirectional communication link 170A and access request link 170B of speakerphone 170 form the communication link 145 of both Fig. 1A and Fig. 1B.

[0021] In addition to Fig. 2, the following description further makes reference to Fig. 3, where there is illustrated a logic table depicting the control function 300 for a preferred embodiment of an interface system. The logic table includes input column headings C1, C2, and C3, and output column headings C01, C02, and C03. These inputs and outputs correspond to the same named input and output signals of the controller 300 of Fig. 2. The logic table is divided horizontally into sections S1, S2, S3, and S4 corresponding to the connection of one of the accessories to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110. An active request for access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110 by an accessory is represented by a logical "0" under the input columns C1-C3. Section S1 includes the possible input value combinations and the unique output values which connect the handset 180 to the radiotelephone 110 audio channel. Section S2 includes the possible input value combinations and the unique output values which connect the modem 190 to the radiotelephone 110 audio channel. Section S3 includes the input values and the unique output values which connect the speakerphone 170 to the radiotelephone 110 audio channel. Finally, S4 includes the input values and the unique output values which disconnect all accessories from the radiotelephone 110.

[0022] Under the prioritization hierarchy of the preferred embodiment, preference is given to operation of handset 180. As such, whenever control input C1 is a logical "0" representing a request by the handset 180, the controller 300 provides control output values C01 = "0", C02 = "0", and C03 = "0" to the control switch 310 and the control switch 310 connects the handset audio channel to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110. Since the handset 180 is given priority over all other devices, requests by the modem 190 and speakerphone 170 represented by logical "0" on control inputs C2 and C3 respectively have no effect on the control outputs C01-C03.

[0023] The preferred embodiment of the present invention gives second priority to operation of the modem 190. Section S2 of the logic table shows the situation where handset 180 is not requesting access as depicted by a logic "1" in column C1 and the modem 190 is requesting access as depicted by a logic "0" in column C2. In this situation, the controller 300 provides control output values C01 = "0", C02 = "1", and C03 = "0" to

the control switch 310 and the control switch 310 connects the audio channel of the modem 190 to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110.

[0024] The preferred embodiment of the present invention gives third priority to operation of the speakerphone 170. Section S3 shows the situation where the handset 180 and the modem 190 are not requesting access as depicted by a logic "1" in columns C1 and C2 respectively and the speakerphone 170 is requesting access as depicted by a logic "0" in column C2. In this situation, the controller 300 provides control output values C01 = "0", C02 = "1", and C03 = "0" to the control switch 310 and the control switch 310 connects the audio channel of the speakerphone 170 to the radiotelephone 110 audio channel.

[0025] Lastly, section S4 depicts the situation in which no accessory is requesting access to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110 as depicted by logic value "1" for each of the inputs C1-C3. In this situation the radiotelephone 110 is isolated from all accessories.

[0026] Although, the logic table of Fig. 3 includes only three accessory devices the controller 300 and interface system 100 can expand to include any number of accessory devices. Likewise, the logic table does not show any user selected operational settings as inputs to the control function. Requests for access from additional accessories and user selected operational settings can be added to the logic table as additional inputs and the number of controller outputs can be expanded to include additional accessory devices such that any number of accessories and combination of prioritization schemes can be realized.

[0027] Referring now to Fig. 4, there is illustrated a schematic of discrete logic used to implement the control function of Fig. 3. The schematic shows inputs C1-C3 representing the controller inputs C1-C3 of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 and outputs C01-C03 representing the controller outputs C01-C03 of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. The discrete logic includes three "AND" gates 500, 510, and 520 and inverters 530 and 540. These gates are connected as shown in the schematic such that when the inputs shown in columns C1-C3 of Fig. 3 are applied to the input C1-C3 of the discrete logic the outputs C01-C03 of the discrete logic provide the corresponding outputs C01-C03 of Fig. 3.

[0028] Although discrete logic is used in Fig. 4 to implement the controller 300 of Fig. 2, several other methods exist to implement this function. These methods include, but are not limited to, a look-up table embodied in a Read Only Memory and the use of a general purpose computer programmed to produce the controller outputs C01-C03 in response to controller inputs C1-C3. As described in the logic table of Fig. 3, additional inputs and outputs can be added to include additional accessory devices and user selected operational setting inputs.

[0029] Referring now to Fig. 5, there is illustrated an embodiment of the control switch 310 of the interface

system 100 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 depicts the audio path from the radiotelephone 110 to the various accessory devices and the switching which is necessary to connect the various accessory devices to the audio channel of the radiotelephone 110. The control switch 310 of Fig. 2 is depicted in Fig. 5 as being comprised of six discrete switches. Switches 600, 610, and 620 form the switching path from the audio processor 630 of the radiotelephone 110 and switches 640, 650, and 660 form the switching path to the audio processor 670. Together the path from the audio processor 630 and the path to the audio processor 670 form the radiotelephone 110 bidirectional audio channel.

[0030] Switches 600 and 640 which either place the radiotelephone 110 in isolation or allow connection to accessory devices, are controlled by the control output C03 of the controller 310 of Fig. 2. Switches 610 and 650 which connect the speakerphone 170 to the radiotelephone 110 audio processing paths 630 and 670 are controlled by the control output C01 of the controller 310 of Fig. 2. Switches 620 and 660 connect either the handset 180 or modem 190 to the radiotelephone 110 audio processor paths 630 and 670 are controlled by the control output C02 of the controller 310 of Fig. 2.

[0031] While the embodiment of the control switch 310, depicted in Fig. 5 comprises six discrete switches for implementing the switching function, other methods for implementing the switching function are possible such as the use of a monolithic multiplexer. The discrete switches, however, can be employed to effectuate the remotely located external portion 260 of the interface system described in Fig. 1B.

[0032] Furthermore, there are various ways which the switch can be controlled and wired in addition to the methods described in Fig. 3 and Fig. 5 and it is understood that the present invention is not limited to those methods described.

Claims

1. An interface device (100) for arbitrating between, and effectuating access by, a plurality of accessory devices including a speakerphone (170), a handset (180), a modem (190) or other accessory device (340) competing for access to a radiotelephone 110 audio channel, said interface device (100) operating independent of a laptop computer connected to the modem (190) and characterized by:

a controller (300) for controlling operations of the interface system (100) and arbitrating to select between competing requests from the plurality of accessory devices;

a switch (310) operatively responsive to said controller (300), said switch (310) for effectuating access by the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190, 340) to the radiotelephone

- (110) audio channel; and
a request generator (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B)
for generating requests to the controller (300)
for access to the audio channel of the radiotele-
phone (110) by the plurality of accessories 5
(170, 180, 190, 340).
2. The interface device (100) of Claim 1, further comprising an input device (320) for entering user-selected operational mode settings, the operational mode settings being communicated to the controller (300) and altering operation of the controller (300). 10
3. The interface system (100) of Claim 1, wherein the switch (310) includes: 15
- a centrally located portion (250); and
a remotely located portion (260) external to the centrally located portion (250).
4. The interface system (100) of Claim 1, further comprising, an electrical cable (145,175,185) coupling the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to the switch (310) and the controller (300), said electrical cable (145,175,185) for transmitting electrical signals. 20
5. The interface system (100) of Claim 1, further comprising, a fibre optic cable (145,175,185) coupling the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to the switch (310) and the controller (300), said fibre optic cable (170, 180, 190) for transmitting optical signals. 25
6. The interface system (100) of Claim 1, further comprising, an electromagnetic coupler (170, 180, 190) connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to the switch (310) and the controller (300), said electromagnetic coupler (170, 180, 190) for transmitting wireless signals. 30
7. A method for arbitrating and effectuating access by a plurality of accessory devices including a speaker phone (170), a handset (180), a modem (190) or other accessory device (340) competing for access to a radiotelephone (110) audio channel said method characterized by the steps of: 35
- connecting the radiotelephone (110) audio processor to a bidirectional terminal on a first side of a switch (310);
connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190, 340) to a plurality of bidirectional terminals on a second side of the switch (310);
connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190, 340) to a controller (300) via a request link (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B); 40
- generating a request by at least one of the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190, 340);
transmitting the request to the controller (300) via the request link (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B);
arbitrating by the controller (300) to select between competing requests from the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190, 340) for access to the audio channel of the radio telephone (110);
instructing the switch (310) by the controller (300) to connect the selected accessory (170, 180, 190, 340) to the audio processor of the radiotelephone (110); and
switching the switch (310) to connect the first side of the switch (310) to the second side of the switch (310) associated with the selected accessory (170, 180, 190, 340). 45
8. The method of Claim 7, further including the step of entering user-selected operational mode settings (320), the operational mode settings (320) being communicated to the controller (300) and altering operation of the controller (300). 50
9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the steps of connecting the radiotelephone (110) audio processor to a bidirectional terminal on a first side of a switch (310), connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a plurality of bidirectional terminals on a second side of the switch (310), and connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a controller (300) are effectuated using an electrical cable (145, 175, 185) for transmitting electrical signals. 55
10. The method of Claim 7, wherein the steps of connecting the radiotelephone (110) audio processor to a bidirectional terminal on a first side of a switch (310), connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a plurality of bidirectional terminals on a second side of the switch (310), and connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a controller (300) are effectuated using a fibre optic cable (145, 175, 185) for transmitting optical signals.
11. The method of Claim 7, wherein the steps of connecting the radiotelephone (110) audio processor to a bidirectional terminal on a first side of a switch (310), connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a plurality of bidirectional terminals on a second side of the switch (310), and connecting the plurality of accessory devices (170, 180, 190) to a controller (300) are effectuated using electromagnetic radiation for transmitting wireless signals.

Patentansprüche

1. Schnittstellenvorrichtung (100) zum Vermitteln zwischen und Bewirken von Zugriff durch eine Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen einschließlich eines Freisprechtelefons (170), eines Handhörers (180), eines Modems (190) oder einer anderen Zubehörvorrichtung (340), die um den Zugriff auf einen Funktelefon (112)-Audiokanal kompetieren, wobei die Schnittstellenvorrichtung (100) unabhängig von einem mit dem Modem (190) verbundenen Laptop-Computer arbeitet und gekennzeichnet ist durch:

 - eine Steuerung (300) zum Steuern des Betriebs des Schnittstellensystems (100) und zum Vermitteln zum Auswählen zwischen kompetierenden Anfragen von der Mehrzahl der Zubehörvorrichtungen;
 - einen zur Steuerung (300) operativ verantwortlichen Schalter (310), wobei der Schalter (310) zum Bewirken von Zugriff der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190, 340) auf den Funktelefon (110)-Audiokanal dient; und
 - ein Anforderungsgenerator (170b, 180b, 190b, 340b) zum Erzeugen von Anfragen an die Steuerung (300) zum Zugriff auf den Audiokanal des Funktelefons (110) durch die Mehrzahl von Zubehören (170, 180, 190, 340).
2. Schnittstellenvorrichtung (100) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin umfassend eine Eingabevorrichtung (320) zum Eingeben von anwenderselektierten Betriebsmodus-Einstellungen, wobei die Betriebsmodus-Einstellungen der Steuerung (300) mitgeteilt werden und den Betrieb der Steuerung (300) ändern.
3. Schnittstellensystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Schalter (310) enthält:

 - einen zentral angeordneten Bereich (250), und
 - einen entfernt angeordneten Bereich (260) außerhalb des zentral angeordneten Bereichs (250).
4. Schnittstellensystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin umfassend ein elektrisches Kabel (145, 175, 185), das die Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit dem Schalter (310) und der Steuerung (300) koppelt, wobei das elektrische Kabel (145, 175, 185) dem Übertragen elektrischer Signale dient.
5. Schnittstellensystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin umfassend ein faseroptisches Kabel (145, 175, 185), das die Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit dem Schalter (310) und der Steuerung (300) koppelt, wobei das faseroptische Kabel (170, 180, 190) dem Übertragen optischer Signale dient.
6. Schnittstellensystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin umfassend einen elektromagnetischen Koppler (170, 180, 190), der die Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit dem Schalter (310) und der Steuerung (300) verbindet, wobei der elektromagnetische Koppler (170, 180, 190) zum Übertragen von Drahtlossignalen dient.
7. Verfahren zum Vermitteln und Bewirken von Zugriff durch eine Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen einschließlich eines Freisprechtelefons (170), eines Handhörers (180), eines Modems (190) oder einer anderen Zubehörvorrichtung (340), die um einen Zugriff auf einen Funktelefon (110)-Audiokanal kompetieren, wobei das Verfahren durch die Schritte gekennzeichnet ist:

 - Verbinden des Funktelefon (110)-Audioprozessors mit einem bidirektionalen Anschluss auf einer ersten Seite eines Schalters (310);
 - Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190, 340) mit einer Mehrzahl von bidirektionalen Anschlüssen auf einer zweiten Seite des Schalters (310),
 - Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190, 340) mit einer Steuerung (300) über eine Anforderungsverbindung (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B);
 - Erzeugen einer Anfrage durch zumindest eine aus der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190, 340);
 - Übertragen der Anfrage an die Steuerung (300) über die Anforderungsverbindung (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B);
 - durch die Steuerung (300) Vermitteln der Auswahl zwischen kompetierenden Anfragen von der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190, 340) zum Zugriff auf den Audiokanal des Funktelefons (110);
 - Anweisen des Schalters (310) durch die Steuerung (300), das ausgewählte Zubehör (170, 180, 190, 340) mit dem Audioprozessor des Funktelefons (110) zu verbinden; und
 - Schalten des Schalters (310), um die erste Seite

te des Schalters (310) mit der zweiten Seite des Schalters (310), die mit dem ausgewählten Zubehör (170, 180, 190, 340) assoziiert ist, zu verbinden.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, weiterhin enthaltend den Schritt des Eingebens von Benutzer-ausgewählten Betriebsmodus-Einstellungen (320), wobei die Betriebsmodus-Einstellungen (320) der Steuerung (300) mitgeteilt werden und den Betrieb der Steuerung (300) ändern.
9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Schritte des Verbindens des Funktelefon (110)-Audioprozessors mit einem bidirektionalen Anschluss auf einer ersten Seite eines Schalters (310), Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Mehrzahl von bidirektionalen Anschlüssen auf einer zweiten Seite des Schalters (310) und Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Steuerung (300) unter Verwendung eines elektrischen Kabels (145, 175, 185) zum Übertragen elektrischer Signale bewirkt werden.
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Schritte des Verbindens des Funktelefon (110)-Audioprozessors mit einem bidirektionalen Anschluss auf einer ersten Seite eines Schalters (310), Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Mehrzahl von bidirektionalen Anschlüssen auf einer zweiten Seite des Schalters (310) und Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Steuerung (300) unter Verwendung eines faseroptischen Kabels (145, 175, 185) zum Übertragen optischer Signale bewirkt werden.
11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Schritte des Verbindens des Funktelefon (110)-Audioprozessors mit einem bidirektionalen Anschluss auf einer ersten Seite eines Schalters (310), Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Mehrzahl von bidirektionalen Anschlüssen auf einer zweiten Seite des Schalters (310) und Verbinden der Mehrzahl von Zubehörvorrichtungen (170, 180, 190) mit einer Steuerung (300) unter Verwendung elektromagnetischer Strahlung zum Übertragen drahtloser Signale bewirkt werden.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'interface (100) pour arbitrer entre, et effectuer un accès par, une pluralité de dispositifs d'accessoires incluant un téléphone avec haut-parleur (170), un combiné (180), un modem (190)

ou autre dispositif d'accessoires (340) entrant en compétition pour accéder à un canal audio d'un radiotéléphone (110), ledit dispositif d'interface (100) opérant indépendamment d'un ordinateur portable relié au modem (190) et caractérisé par :

- un contrôleur (300) pour commander les opérations du système d'interface (100) ; et l'arbitrage pour la sélection entre des demandes en compétition provenant de la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires ;
un commutateur (310) répondant fonctionnellement audit contrôleur (300), ledit commutateur (310) étant destiné à effectuer l'accès par la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340) au canal audio du radiotéléphone (110) ; et
un générateur de demandes (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B) pour générer des demandes vers le contrôleur (300) pour accéder au canal audio du radiotéléphone (110) par la pluralité des accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340).
2. Dispositif d'interface (100) selon la revendication 1, comprenant, en outre, un dispositif d'entrée (320) pour entrer les réglages de mode de fonctionnement sélectionné par l'utilisateur, les réglages de mode de fonctionnement étant communiqués au contrôleur (300) et modifiant le fonctionnement du contrôleur (300).
3. Système d'interface (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le commutateur (310) inclut :
une partie positionnée au centre (250) ; et
une partie positionnée à distance (260) externe à la partie positionnée au centre (250).
4. Système d'interface (100) selon la revendication 1, comprenant, en outre, un câble électrique (145, 175, 185) couplant la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) au commutateur (310), et au contrôleur (300), ledit câble électrique (145, 175, 185) étant destiné à transmettre des signaux électriques.
5. Système d'interface (100) selon la revendication 1, comprenant, en outre, un câble à fibres optiques (145, 175, 185) couplant la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) au commutateur (310) et au contrôleur (300), ledit câble à fibres optiques (170, 180, 190) étant destiné à transmettre des signaux optiques.
6. Système d'interface (100) selon la revendication 1, comprenant, en outre, un coupleur électromagnétique (170, 180, 190) reliant la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) au commutateur

(310) et au contrôleur (300), ledit coupleur électromagnétique (170, 180, 190) étant destiné à transmettre des signaux sans fil.

cessoires (170, 180, 190) à un contrôleur (300) sont effectuées en utilisant un câble électrique (145, 175, 185) pour transmettre des signaux électriques.

7. Procédé pour arbitrer et effectuer l'accès par une pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires incluant un téléphone avec haut-parleur (170), un combiné (180), un modem (190) ou autre dispositif d'accessoires (340) entrant en compétition pour accéder à un canal audio d'un radiotéléphone (110), ledit procédé étant caractérisé par les étapes consistant à :

connecter le processeur audio du radiotéléphone (110) à une borne bidirectionnelle sur un premier côté d'un commutateur (310) ;
connecter la pluralité de dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340) à une pluralité de bornes bidirectionnelles sur un second côté du commutateur (310) ;
connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340) au contrôleur (300) via une liaison de demande (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B) ;
générer une demande par au moins un de la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340) ;
transmettre la demande au contrôleur (300) via la liaison de demande (170B, 180B, 190B, 340B) ;
arbitrer par le contrôleur (300) pour sélectionner entre les demandes en compétition provenant de la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190, 340) pour accéder au canal audio du radiotéléphone (110) ;
ordonner au commutateur (310) par le contrôleur (300) de connecter l'accessoire sélectionné (170, 180, 190, 340) au processeur audio du radiotéléphone (110) ; et
commuter le commutateur (310) pour connecter le premier côté du commutateur (310) au second côté du commutateur (310) associé à l'accessoire sélectionné (170, 180, 190, 340).

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7 incluant, en outre, l'étape consistant à entrer les réglages de mode de fonctionnement sélectionné par l'utilisateur (320), les réglages de mode de fonctionnement (320) étant communiqués au contrôleur (300) et modifiant le fonctionnement du contrôleur (300).

9. Procédé selon la revendication 7, dans lequel les étapes consistant à connecter le processeur audio du radiotéléphone (110) à une borne bidirectionnelle sur un premier côté d'un commutateur (310), à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) à une pluralité de bornes bidirectionnelles sur un second côté du commutateur (310) et à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'ac-

10. Procédé selon la revendication 7, dans lequel les étapes consistant à connecter le processeur audio du radiotéléphone (110) à une borne bidirectionnelle sur un premier côté d'un commutateur (310), à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) à une pluralité de bornes bidirectionnelles sur un second côté du commutateur (310) et à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) à un contrôleur (300) sont effectuées en utilisant un câble à fibres optiques (145, 175, 185) pour transmettre les signaux optiques.

11. Procédé selon la revendication 7, dans lequel les étapes consistant à connecter le processeur audio du radiotéléphone (110) à une borne bidirectionnelle sur un premier côté d'un commutateur (310), à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) à une pluralité de bornes bidirectionnelles sur un second côté du commutateur (310) et à connecter la pluralité des dispositifs d'accessoires (170, 180, 190) à un contrôleur (300) sont effectuées en utilisant le rayonnement électromagnétique pour transmettre des signaux sans fil.

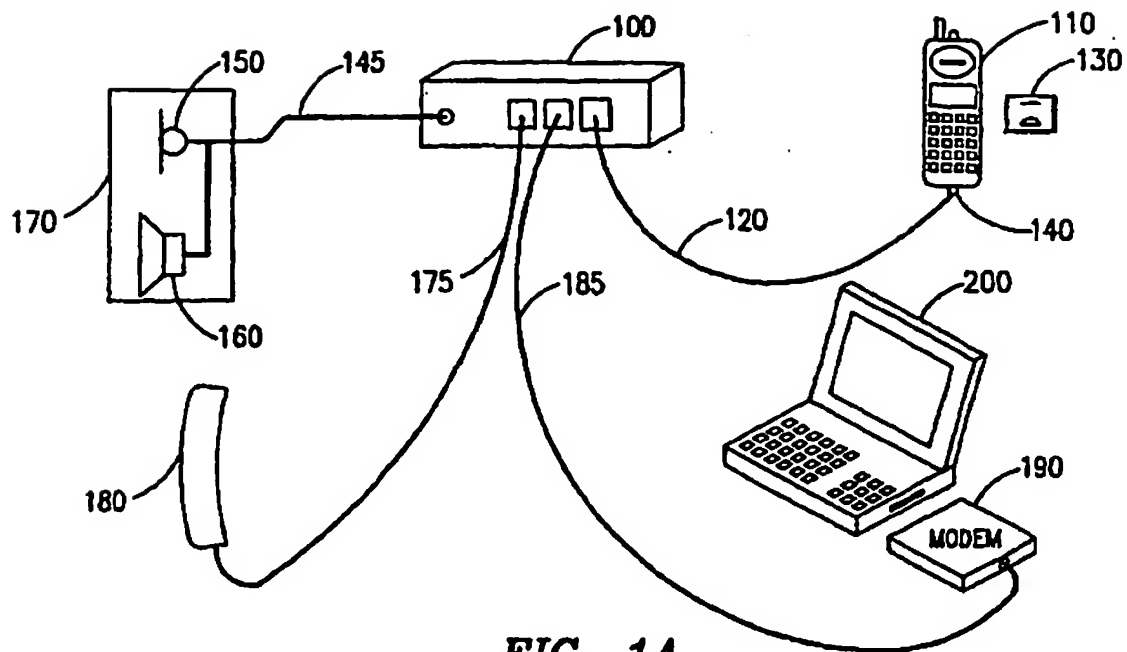


FIG. 1A

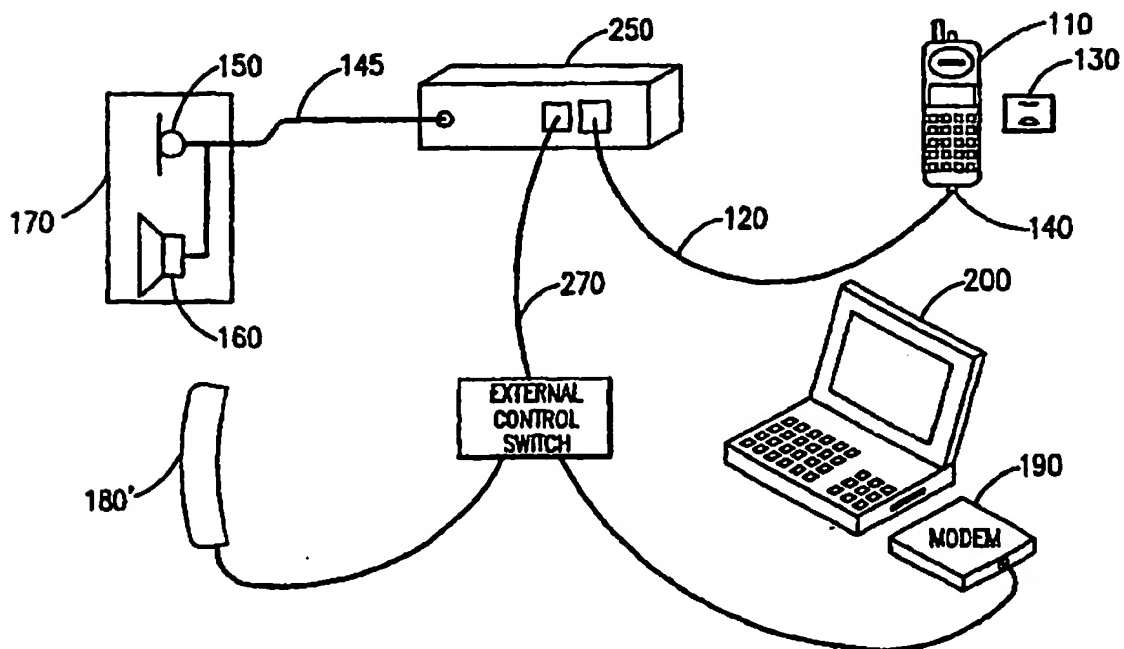


FIG. 1B

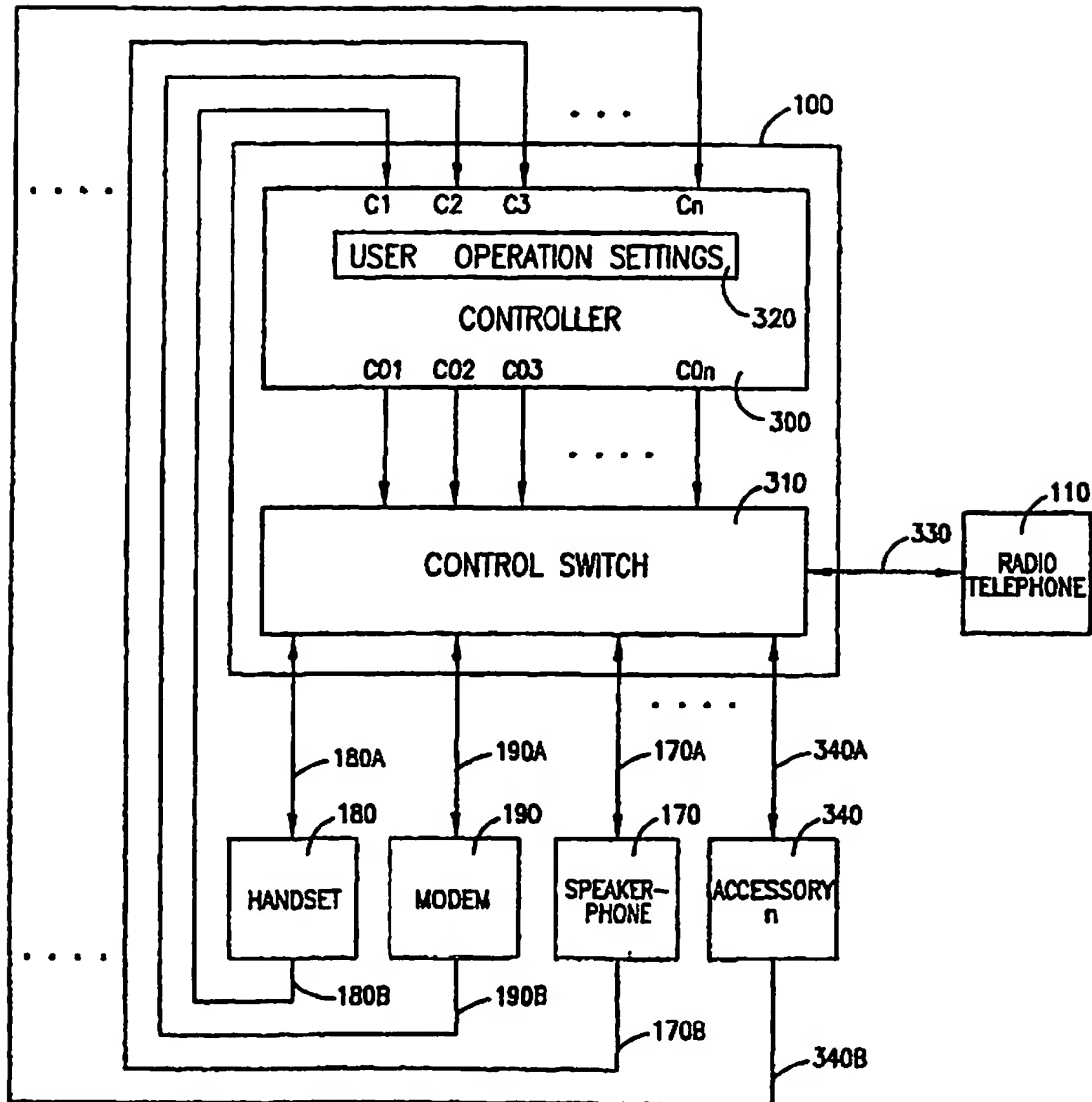


FIG. 2

	INPUTS			OUTPUTS			CONNECTION PATH
	C1	C2	C3	C01	C02	C03	
S1	0	0	0	0	0	0	CONNECTION TO HANDSET
	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	0	1	1	0	0	0	
S2	1	0	0	0	1	0	CONNECTION TO MODEM
	1	0	1	0	1	0	
S3	1	1	0	1	0	0	CONNECTION TO SPEAKERPHONE
S4	1	1	1	0	0	1	TELEPHONE ISOLATED

FIG. 3

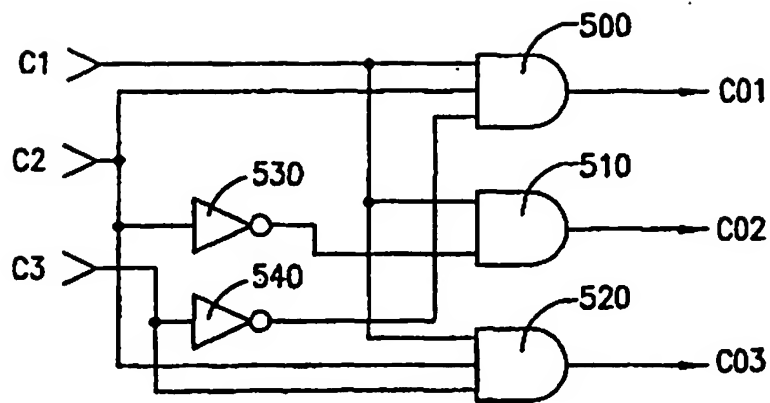


FIG. 4

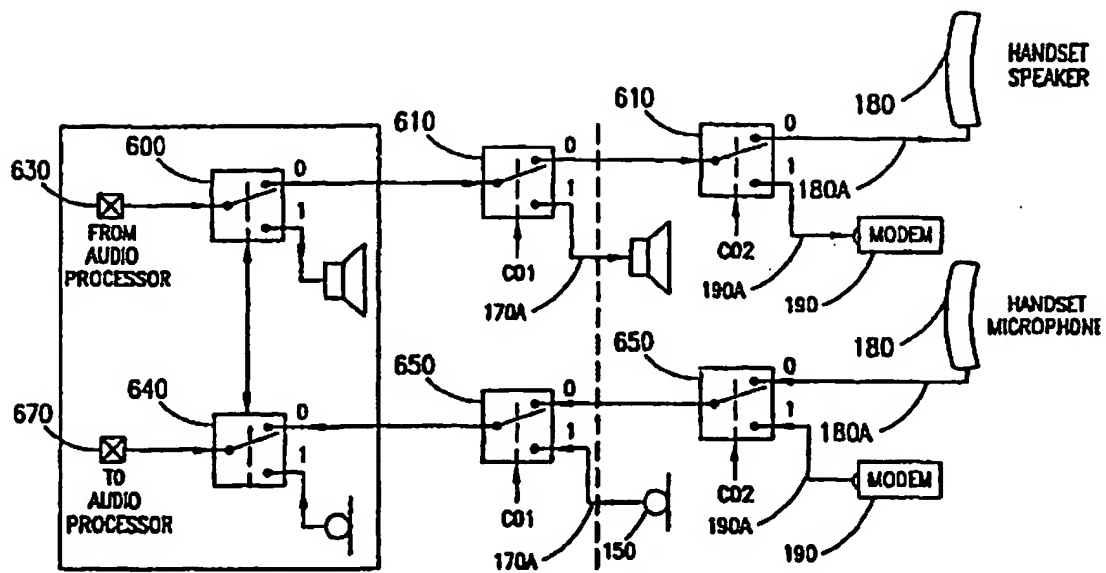


FIG. 5